

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 094454
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DRAFTED BY: EUR/CE:GACHESTER
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S/S:SGOLDSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USCOB IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 094454

EXDIS ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 6933 ACTION USBERLIN INFO
SECSTATE DTD 22 APR

QTE

S E C R E T BONN 06933

EXDIS

USBER FOR MINISTER GEORGE
DEPT PLS PASS TO USCOB BERLIN AS SPECAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, US, UK, FR, GE, WB
SUBJECT: US PATROLS IN EAST BERLIN

REFS: (A) LONDON 6322; (B) USBER 1030

1. I CONCUR WITH AND COMMEND THE PROMPT ACTION
TAKEN BY USCOB BERLIN (REF B).

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 094454

2. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON WHAT ADDITIONAL
MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE PATROLS ARE
NOT UNNECESSARILY PROVOCATIVE. YOU MIGHT WANT TO
CONSIDER, FOR EXAMPLE, DIRECTING THAT THE PATROLS
ADHERE TO PREDESIGNATED ROUTES (WHICH SHOULD BE
ALTERED, IF NECESSARY, TO AVOID MORE THAN MINIMAL

CONTACT WITH SENSITIVE GDR EVENTS SUCH AS MOTORCADES, PARADES, ETC.) AND THAT THE PATROLS SHOULD BE SCHEDULED IN SUCH A MANNER AS NOT TO TRAVERSE EXCESSIVELY THE SAME AREA WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

3. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUOUS OPERATION OF THE US MILITARY LIAISON MISSION OUTSIDE OF AND AROUND BERLIN AS WELL AS OTHER SOURCES OF INTELLIGENCE IN BERLIN, IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THE PATROLS DO NOT PERFORM A MILITARY INTELLIGENCE FUNCTION COMMENSURATE WITH THE POLITICAL RISK INVOLVED IN THE REPETITION OF UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS. I SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT YOU MIGHT CONSIDER INFORMING YOUR STAFF THAT THE PATROLS ARE TO BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING NO REGULAR INTELLIGENCE FUNCTION AND THAT THE PATROLS SHALL BE CONDUCTED ACCORDINGLY.

4. THE FACT THAT THE PATROLS ARE CONDUCTED IN A MORE DISCREET AND UNOBTRUSIVE MANNER WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED BY THE SOVIETS AND THE GDR NOR WILL THE FACT THAT THE NUMBER OF PATROLS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED. IF THE SOVIETS ARE INALTERABLY DETERMINED TO PUSH THE THREE ALLIES TO A CONFRONTATION OVER THE PATROLS, THERE IS NO WAY THAT THIS WILL BE AVOIDED. HOWEVER, IF, AS IS OUR HOPE, THE SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO AVOID SUCH A CONFRONTATION, EVEN AT THE COST OF HAVING TO RESIST GDR DEMANDS FOR THEIR TERMINATION, THE COMBINATION OF OUR SHOW OF RESOLVE BY MAINTAINING THE PATROLS' FREQUENCY WHILE MAKING THEM LESS OBTRUSIVE MAY HELP TO AVOID A POTENTIAL CRISIS. HOWEVER, OUR PRINCIPAL PURPOSE IN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 094454

REVIEWING THE PATROL PROCEDURES SHOULD NOT BE TO PLACATE THE SOVIETS, WHOSE ATTITUDES ARE FOUNDED PRIMARILY ON OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND WHOSE DEMANDS WE MUST AND WILL REJECT, BUT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE AVOID UNNECESSARY INCIDENTS IN THE PURSUIT OF TERTIARY OBJECTIVES.

5. IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THIS SUBJECT, I HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THIS RECOMMENDATION WITH MY FRENCH AND BRITISH COUNTERPARTS BUT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS AS TO HOW THE MATTER SHOULD BE TREATED WITH OUR ALLIES.
STOESSEL UNQTE VANCE

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